

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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S E C R E T USNATO 5779

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/81

TAGS: MARR, US, NATO

SUBJECT: SCEPC MEETING NOVEMBER 26 ON HILEX-6 OIL SCENARIO

REF: A. USNATO 5467; B. STATE 225062; C. STATE 231054 D. USNATO 5756

SECDEF FOR OASD I&L; INTERIOR FOR OOG

SUMMARY: SPECIAL SCEPC MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE
MODIFICATIONS TO HILEX-6 OIL SCENARIO RESULTED IN IMPASSE.
NEW DRAFT DECISION (PARA 3) FORMULATED WITH RESPONSES
DUE BY 4 DECEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN (DEVEGLIA) INTRODUCED SUBJECT STATING THAT
BOTH CEP DIRECTORATE AND EXERCISE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BELIEVE THAT PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY QUESTION OF SCALING
DOWN THE OIL SCENARIO BUT OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE
ANY OIL PROBLEM WHATSOEVER INCLUDED IN THE EXERCISE.
HE READ FROM HIS BRIEF AS FOLLOWS:

QTE - THE HIGH LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP MEETS
TOMORROW AND WILL NEED SOME GUIDANCE FROM THE SENIOR
COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT. IF WE CAN, THEREFORE, WE
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SHOULD TRY TO EVOLVE CLEAR GUIDANCE TODAY.

IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THE OIL PROBLEM HAD TO BE
REMOVED BECAUSE IT WOULD DEPRIVE US OF A FIRST CLASS

OPPORTUNITY TO TEST OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTANTS AND SO ON. IF WE REMOVE THE PROBLEM IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT WE COULD PUT IN ITS PLACE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF FEELS BOND TO POINT OUT CERTAIN OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND TO SUGGEST THAT THE PROBLEM SHOULD NOT ONLY BE SCALED DOWN, BUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO OIL PLAY AS SUCH DURING THE EXERCISE.

THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF TAKING IT OUT SEEM TO BE:

1. IT WOULD BE SIE TO AVOID RAISING IN THE COUNCIL/DPC DURING THE EXERCISE THE SAME TYPE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING ON RECENTLY IN REGARD TO THE REAL CRISIS. EVEN IF THE REAL CRISIS WAS TO BE SOLVED IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, THERE WOULD BE BOUND TO BE EMBARRASSING REFERENCES BACK TO IT DURING THE EXERCISE PLAY.

2. IF THE REAL CRISIS WAS NOT RESOLVED BY THE TIME OF THE EXERCISE, IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING AND, INDEED, EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO EXPECT THE COUNCIL/DPC AND CAPITALS TO DEAL WITH AN EXERCISE SITUATION WHICH WAS ALSO GOING ON IN REAL LIFE AT THE SAME TIME, AND

3. OIL STAFFS IN CAPITALS ARE VERY HARD PRESSED AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE SHOULD NOT ADD TO THEIR REAL LIFE DIFFICULTIES BY ASKING THEM TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR SUBSTANTIAL OIL PLAY IN AN EXERCISE. END QUOTE.

FURTHER, HE STATED THAT RESPONSES REQUESTED ON PREVIOUS DRAFT DECISION (REF A) HAD RESULTED IN ONLY TWO REPLIES - ONE FROM THE NETHERLANDS REP ADVISING HIS AUTHORITIES PREFER COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF ANY OIL PROBLEMS FROM THE HILEX SCENARIO, AND THE U.S. RESPONSE (REF B). CHAIRMAN THEN POLLED NATIONAL REPS AT MEETING. ONLY
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CANADA AND NETHERLANDS REQUESTED THAT OIL PROBLEMS BE ELIMINATED FROM SCENARIO, WHILE BELGIUM, FRG, ITALY, NORWAY, TURKEY AND UK PREFERRED SCALING DOWN AS SUGGESTED IN DRAFT DECISION (REF A). BELGIAN WAS ONLY REP WHO STATED DECISION SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER.

2. MORAN (IS), AS EXERCISE DIRECTOR, STATED THAT HIGH LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP MEETING FOLLOWING DAY (REFTEL D) WOULD HAVE TO DETERMINE THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ANY CHANGES IN SCENARIO. SEVERAL NATIONAL EXERCISES ARE ALSO TIED INTO HILEX PLAY AND, THEREFORE, QUESTION OF NATIONAL TIMING IS ALSO IMPORTANT. THE FRG SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED DOCUMENTATION BY THE

BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY FOR TRANSLATION FOR NATIONAL EXERCISE. MORAN PREFERRED A DECISION NOW, AND AT END OF DECEMBER AT LATEST.

3. COMMITTEE DEVELOPED ANOTHER DRAFT DECISION PRESERVING FIRST SENTENCE OF PREVIOUS PROPOSAL AND MODIFYING THE REST. CHAIRMAN REQUESTED, UNDER SILENCE PROCEDURE, DECISIONS BY NATIONS BY C.O.B. DECEMBER 4. DRAFT DECISION IS AS FOLLOWS: QTE - AGREED THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE SETTING FOR OIL PLAY IN EXERCISE HILEX-6 SHOULD BE SEVERELY SCALED DOWN IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE EMBARRASSING COMPARISONS WITH THE PREVAILING SITUATION. ACCORDINGLY, IT SHOULD BE ASSUMED THAT CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES ARE ADEQUATE AND STOCKS OF ALL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ARE THE SAME AS REPORTED APRIL 1, 1973; NO NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM RELATING TO CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES OR PETROLEUM PRODUCT STOCKS SHOULD BE RAISED IN THE COURSE OF THE EXERCISE. THE MERCHANT SHIPPING PLAY MAY, HOWEVER, INVOLVE TANKERS. END QTE. THE NETHERLANDS REP STATED THE AMENDED DRAFT DECISION MADE MAXIMUM MENTION OF PETROLEUM IN SCENARIO WHICH HIS AUTHORITIES WILL ACCEPT. CANADIAN REP ALSO INDICATED HE THOUGH REVISED TEXT WAS WITHIN SCOPE OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS. THE US REP REITERATED HIS INSTRUCTIONS (REF B), BUT TOLD COMMITTEE THAT HE WOULD FULLY REPORT DISCUSSION. (THE APRIL 1, 1973 REPORT REFERRED TO IN DECISION IS THE SHAPELOG-7 REPORT (AC/12-D/548) WHICH THE PETROLEUM PLANNING COMMITTEE
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RECEIVES ON STATUS OF SECURE NATIONAL, CIVIL AND MILITARY STOCKS).

4. IN THE EVENT NO AGREEMENT REACHED BY 4 DECEMBER, SCEPC MAY POSSIBLY MEET ON 5 DECEMBER FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH FINAL DECISION REQUIRED AT DECEMBER 12-14 REINFORCED SCEPC.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: US COMMENT ON REVISED DRAFT DECISION IN VIEW FIRM POSITIONS OF ALL OTHER ALLIES THAT OIL SCENARIO BE EITHER SCALED DOWN OR ELIMINATED FROM HILEX-6.
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